

## Environmental Weed of the Month – Broad Leaved Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*)

### Common names

Japanese Privet, Tree Privet, Large-leaved Privet

### Family

Oleaceae

### Origin

China

### Description

An evergreen tree growing 4-10m in height with brown bark that is covered in small, white lenticles (pores). Oval shaped leaves with pointed ends (4-13cm long, 3-6cm wide) are arranged in opposite pairs along the stem. Leaf is a dark, glossy green with a paler, veined underside. Small, white, tubular flowers make up powerfully fragrant flowerheads (25x20cm) from Nov-March. These are followed by bunches of green berries (9mm long, 12mm diameter) that ripen to a deep purple/blue with a powdery coating.

### How do they spread?

Spread by seed, birds eating the berries. Also spread by waterways, in garden trimmings and floral arrangements.

### Why are they an issue?

Very popular ornamental plant. Will grow in dense thickets that outcompete native species. Are opportunistic and can tolerate most conditions.

### Where are you likely to find it?

Likes moist areas so beside waterways, in valleys and drains is



common, however will occur in bushland, on roadsides, coastlines, gardens etc.

**How can I control it?**

1. Hand weeding young seedlings
2. Over spray seedlings and groups of plants up to 3 m high: Metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (Brush-Off) 1g/10L water.
3. Cut-stump young to medium plants 1 part Glyphosate to 1 part water
4. Stem injection treating larger individual plants 1 part Glyphosate to 1 part water.
5. Basal Bark for treating larger individual plants with 1L Garlon with 12L Diesel.

Lilli-unna King

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICER**

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